## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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assessment would be conducted, and that levels of programs, both residential and nonresidential, are available to match youth with appropriate placement need. I'm going to repeat that, because that is key to the reason why I am offering this number of amendments on this bill. In order to build confidence utilizing a single point of entry assessment process and continuum of service, there would have to be confidence among judges in that objective and accurate assessment would be conducted, and that levels of programs, both residential and nonresidential, are available to match youth with appropriate placement need. We aren't there yet. That has not been put in Once the confidence level of the system among judges is established and a services continuum is funded within OJS. a single point of entry into state custody could be implemented. We can't go to a system without these pieces in place, and they're not there. Another part of the recommendations from Karen Chinn, who did this assessment, that was funded and proposed by...through the Appropriations Committee two years ago, talked about problems within the office organizational structure, and why the people in the system who deal with this on a daily basis, who have talked to me about this, and that includes not only judges as was implied yesterday but other people in the system who talked to me about this, that we aren't in the state of organization within the department to be able to handle this. It says, policy that has been developed by the Office of Juvenile Services is not consistently followed The placement and services matrix for juvenile in the field. services shows the policy related to custody level placement, that's what we're talking about, setting, required staff contacts, desired time allotment, appropriate management services, and placement options for youth committed to state custody, this process is not uniformly followed. of the reason for this can be attributed to heavy caseloads, making required contacts unabla to be achieved. Another reason that the placement matrix is not consistently followed, as well as other policies and procedures that have been developed by OJS, is the fact that oversight and management of the field staff is not direct...the direct responsibility of the Office of Juvenile Services. Field staff do not report directly to OJS, and therefore policy developed by OJS is not consistently implemented in the field, and the field is where we're talking